

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

12-21-99
DOCKET NUMBER: AT9-99-407
December 20, 1999

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the Patent Application of:

Inventor(s): Edwin J. Hilpert, Jr., Michael J. Sullivan, William J. Tracey and Jonathan J. Wagner

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS OF DISSEMINATING BROADCAST INFORMATION TO A HANDHELD DEVICE**

Enclosed are:

☒ Patent Specification and Declaration

☒ 4 sheets of drawing(s).

☒ An assignment of the invention to International Business Machines Corporation (includes Recordation Form Cover Sheet).

☐ A certified copy of a ☐ application.

☐ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 and copies of references.

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

For	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Fee
Basic Fee				\$760.00
Total Claims	27 - 20	7	x 18 =	\$126.00
Indep. Claims	3 - 3	0	x 78 =	\$.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED			x 260 =	\$
TOTAL				\$886.00

☒ Please charge IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447 in the amount of \$886.00. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to IBM Corporation Deposit Account 09-0447. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR §1.16.

☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

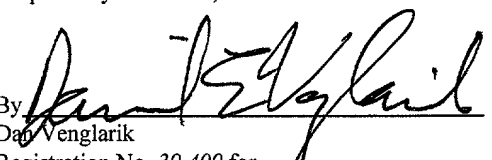
"Express Mail" mailing label number: EL497382822US

Date of Mailing: December 20, 1999

I hereby certify that the documents indicated above are being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to Box Patent Applications, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 and mailed on the above Date of Mailing with the above "Express Mail" mailing label number.


Beth Costner

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dan Venglarik
Registration No. 39,409 for
FELSMAN, BRADLEY, VALEN,
GUNTER & DILLON, LLP
201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Telephone (817) 332-8143

RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET

PATENTS

To the Assistant Commissioner of Patents: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

JC542 U.S. PTO
09/467418
12/20/99

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Edwin J. Hilpert, Jr.
Michael J. Sullivan
William J. Tracey
Jonathan M. Wagner

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

International Business
Machines Corporation
New Orchard Road
Armonk, New York 10504

3. Nature of conveyance:

X Assignment

Execution Date: 12/16/99, 12/16/99, 12/16/99, and 12/16/99

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is 12/16/99, 12/16/99, 12/16/99 and 12/16/99

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Marilyn S. Dawkins, Esq.
IBM Corporation
Intellectual Property Law
Internal Zip 4054
11400 Burnet Road
Austin, TX 78758
(512) 823-0094

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$ 40.00

X Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. IBM Corporation Deposit account number: 09-0447

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Dan Venglarik

Name of Person Signing

for FELSMAN, BRADLEY, VADEN, GUNTER & DILLON, LLP

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet: 3

assignment document

METHOD AND APPARATUS OF DISSEMINATING BROADCAST
INFORMATION TO A HANDHELD DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 .
1. Technical Field:

10 The present invention generally relates to user controlled selection and filtration of broadcast information for viewing and in particular to user selection of serially broadcast information which repeatedly cycles. Still more particularly, the present invention relates to employing meta frames allowing a user to select and filter frames from a series of frames which are serially broadcast in a continuous cycle.
15

2. Description of the Related Art:

20 Contemporary real-time dissemination of information to large numbers of recipients generally occurs through radio and television broadcasts. The content and timing of the information is typically at the discretion of the broadcaster, with the recipients only having the option of selecting a particular channel. With the advent of
25 "Webcasting," or broadcasting real-time on the Internet, and particularly with the increase of wireless devices, such a handheld organizers and mobile telephones, which are capable of providing mobile access to the Internet, user selection and/or filtration of the broadcast information received and
30 presented to the user in a manner not requiring the use of "channels"--either real (e.g., frequency-based) or virtual

(e.g., different addresses) channels--is necessary in light of market demands for user control over selection of the content which the user views.

5 Excluding, momentarily, broadcast of information
intended purely for entertainment, a variety of
circumstances arise where dissemination of information to a
broad range of users would benefit from user filtration of
received data. For example, a user entering a grocery store
10 with a handheld device may receive, from a localized
transmitter operated by the store, information regarding the
store and the items which the grocery store sells. The
broadcast information may be, for instance, the content of
the grocery store's Web site, the pages of which are
15 repeatedly, serially broadcast. The pages may include, for
example, a page providing search capabilities on the shelf
location, price, and nutritional information of items which
the store sells. The user may wish to view only that search
page in order to retrieve data relevant to item(s) in which
20 she is interested, or only information regarding a specified
list of items and any special discounts which the grocery
store may currently offer.

25 The data received by the handheld device in this
example is in an architected format readily retrievable for
consumption by the user in a preferred form (e.g., display,
audio playback, etc.). However, wireless handheld devices
currently introduce a number of limitations which must be
overcome, including: capability to receive only low-
30 bandwidth transmissions; limited storage; varying
capabilities among devices (Palm Pilot, Win CE, etc.); and
low processor speed. Additionally, broadcast of information

to multiple recipients over shared transmission media does not generally permit customization of broadcast content to individual users or communication of requests from the user(s) to the broadcast device.

- 5 .
- It would be desirable, therefore, to enable a user to select from information serially broadcast in continuous cycles for viewing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore one object of the present invention to provide a method, system, and computer program product for user controlled selection and filtration of broadcast information for viewing.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method, system, and computer program product for user selection of serially broadcast information which repeatedly cycles.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a method, system, and computer program product for employing meta frames allowing a user to select and filter frames from a series of frames which are serially broadcast in a continuous cycle.

The foregoing objects are achieved as is now described. Broadcast information is classified in categories to facilitate user selection and filtration of the broadcast information which is processed for presentation to the user. The broadcast information is transmitted in the form of a meta frame and one or more category frames which are repeated in a continuous cycle. Meta frames and category frames are distinguished and identified by major and minor codes following a frame starting delimiter. The meta frame contains a description of each of the available categories, together with an identification of respective category major and minor codes, the frequency on which the respective category frame is transmitted if multiple frequencies are employed, and the relative position of the respective

category frame within transmission cycle. If multiple frequencies are employed, the meta frame may be repeatedly broadcast on a base frequency while subsets of the category frames are transmitted on different frequencies, or the meta and category frames may be repeated in sequence on all frequencies but with varying offsets. Upon user selection of a category, the category information within the meta frame is employed to construct or key a filter for the broadcast information. The selected category frame data is received and added to a local database, formatted, and presented to the user.

The above as well as additional objectives, features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following detailed written description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself however, as well as a preferred mode of use, further objects and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 depicts a data processing system network in which a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented;

Figures 2A-2C are diagrams of a format for broadcasting information to wireless devices in a manner enabling users to selectively filter the broadcast information so that only user-selected portions of the broadcast information are presented to the user by a receiving device in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 3 depicts a high level flowchart for a process of selectively filtering continuously cycled broadcast information for presentation to a user in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the figures, and in particular with reference to **Figure 1**, a data processing system network in which a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented is depicted. Data processing system network **102** includes one or more servers **104-106** and one or more clients **108-110**. Servers **104-106** and clients **108-110** exchange data, such as HyperText Transmission Protocol (HTTP) requests and responses or HyperText Markup Language (HTML) data and accompanying graphical image or sound data, through the Transmitter **112** in accordance with the known art, utilizing, for example, the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) for data transfers.

One or more clients within data processing system network **102**, such as client **110**, may be a wireless device such as a mobile telephone or a handheld organizer capable of receiving data on one or more defined frequencies in a predetermined format. Data from a server **104** to client **110** may be transmitted over conventional wireless networks connected to Transmitter **112** or from a localized transmitter coupled directly to server **104** and transmitting with a set range covering, for example, space occupied by an enterprise. In either case, existing wireless communication protocols and devices may be adapted for broadcast and reception of data in the manner described herein.

Wireless device or client **110** receives information broadcast on a predefined frequency or band by server **104**

and includes an application 114 enabling the user to selectively filter the broadcast information which is received. The selective filtration enables the wireless device or client 110 to display, play, or otherwise present to the user only user-selected portions of the broadcast information. The application 114 may be a browser application with the functionality described herein.

Referring to **Figures 2A** through **2C**, diagrams of a format for broadcasting information to wireless devices in a manner enabling users to selectively filter the broadcast information so that only user-selected portions of the broadcast information are presented to the user by a receiving device in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention are illustrated. In the present invention, broadcast data continuously cycles, with either periodic or intermittent updates. **Figure 2A** illustrates the basic broadcast format contemplated, which includes within each cycle a master meta frame and a number of category frames.

The master meta frame recurs at fixed intervals within each cycle, and contains information describing the format and timing of other frames within the cycle:

Starting Delimiter
Major Code
Minor Code
Cycle Time
Category 1
Category Name
Category Major Code

```

[Category Minor Code]
Category Frequency/Relative Cycle Position
Category 2
Category Name
5 Category Major Code
[Category Minor Code]
Category Frequency/Relative Cycle Position
. . .
Category n
10 Category Name
Category Major Code
[Category Minor Code]
Category Frequency/Relative Cycle Position
Frequency 1 Start Time
15 Frequency 2 Start Time
. . .
Frequency n Start Time
CRC
Ending Delimiter

```

20 The Major and Minor Codes immediately following the Starting
 Delimiter identify the frame as a meta frame. The Cycle
 Time indicates the length of time required to repeat a full
 cycle, which may vary with the number of category frames
 within a cycle. Each category frame 1 through n within the
 25 cycle is identified within the meta frame by name and major
 code (and optionally by Category Minor Code). If multiple
 frequencies are utilized, the frequency of the category
 frame is identified within the meta frame. The relative
 cycle position of the category frame within the cycle is
 30 also identified. Where multiple frequencies are employed,
 the start time for each frequency is specified. An error
 checking code such as a cyclic redundancy check (CRC)

AT9-99-407

character may also be included within the meta frame. The format described is merely exemplary, intended to illustrate the types of information which should be included within a meta frame.

5

Category frames contain data, and may be preindexed to accelerate database access on the client. A suitable format for category frames is:

10

Starting Delimiter
Major Code
Minor Code
Sequence Number
Device Capabilities
Data
CRC
Ending Delimiter

15

20

25

30

The Major and Minor Codes within category frames allow the identity of the category frame as specified within the meta frame to be verified. The Sequence Number may be employed to replace out-of-date content for the category frame. For example, if the content of a category frame is updated, the Sequence Number within that category frame would be incremented to indicate to the receiving device not to utilize cached copies of the category frame, but to receive and utilize the updated version of the entry for its database. The Device Capabilities code specifies requirements of the frame such as color vs. grayscale, speech support, WinCE vs. Palm OS, etc. The same content tailored to different device capabilities in discrete category frames. The Data for a category frame is preferably transmitted in an architected encoding such as HTML which allows the client to generically decode and

AT9-99-407

utilize the information.

In operation, the meta frame within each broadcast cycle is employed by the handheld device to present available categories to the user. When the user selects a category of interest, the information regarding that category is employed to create a reception filter within the handheld device. The reception filter may simply be keyed, for a selected category, to the Major and/or Minor Codes of the category frame for the selected category. Frequency and timing information for the desired category frame may also be employed as part of the filter. Once the filter is created or keyed to the selected category, the handheld device monitors the broadcast frequency or frequencies to receive and process frames carrying the matching category major (and, optionally, minor) code. The received frames are stored in a data base on the handheld device for further parsing and presentation to the user.

In cases where a large amount of item data for a category needs to be broadcast, broadcast of the cycles of meta and category frames described above may need to be conducted across several frequencies in order to achieve the bandwidth necessary for acceptable throughput. It is envisioned that the meta frame record for each category will contain information on the different frequencies employed for broadcast, together with the relative position of category frames within each frequency broadcast cycle containing frames within the respective category. Two possible configurations for utilizing frequency/timing to achieve broadband throughput, illustrated in **Figures 2B and 2C.**

In **Figure 2B**, the meta frames are transmitted repeatedly on the base frequency f_0 , while the category frames are broadcast on extended frequencies f_1 through f_n . A specific frequency may be employed for a category or a subset of categories. After the user creates a filter identifying a desired category, the handheld device alters the monitored frequency to listen for frames of the selected category. A given frequency f_1 or f_n may be utilized to transmit only category frames for one category, repeated continuously. Alternatively, a particular frequency f_2 may be employed to transmit frame for multiple categories in succession, with the sequence repeated continuously. The base frequency f_0 need not be reserved for the meta frames, but may also include interspersed category frames. Preferably, however, each frequency should contain a unique subset of categories, which will then cycle more quickly and result in better data update latencies. The optimal allocation of meta and category frames to different frequencies may be determined at the time the content to be broadcast is specified, encoded within the meta frame, and dynamically updated as the broadcast content is altered.

In **Figure 2C**, the same content is broadcast on all frequencies, but with varying offsets in timing. Each frequency will thus repeat cycles containing all meta and category frames, but in a manner staggered with respect to time and specified within the meta frame for each category. The handheld device may then utilize this information, along with clocking information in the meta frame, to determine which frequency to jump to in order to achieve the shortest delay before receiving the selected category information. Alternatively, a combination of the configurations of

AT9-99-407

Figures 2B and **2C** may be employed. For example, meta frames may be only broadcast on a base frequency f_0 and all category frames may be broadcast in staggered fashion on extended frequencies f_1 through f_n .

5

10

15
20

With reference now to **Figure 3**, a high level flowchart for a process of selectively filtering continuously cycled broadcast information for presentation to a user in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention is depicted. The process begins at step **302**, which depicts detection of broadcast information for presentation on a handheld device. The process first passes to step **304**, which illustrates searching for a meta frame within the broadcast data, identifying the meta frame by the major and minor codes. The process then passes to step **306**, which depicts determining whether the meta frame has been detected. If not, the process returns to step **304** to continuing watching for the meta frame. If so, however, the process proceeds instead to step **308**, which illustrates extracting the category information from the meta frame and presenting the available categories to the user for selection.

25

30

The process passes next to step **310**, which depicts a determination of whether the user has selected a category for presentation. If not, the process remains at step **310** awaiting user selection of the categories available for display. If so, however, the process proceeds instead to step **312**, which illustrates extracting the selected category data, identified by the major and minor codes for the

AT9-99-407

category selected by the user, from the broadcast data being received. Frequency hopping to a specified frequency bearing the selected category data, or bearing the selected category data at an offset closest to the user selection of the data. The selected category data, once received, is added to the locally stored database, formatted for presentation to the user, and presented to the user, either by graphic display, audio playback, video playback, or some combination of all three.

Display of selected category may, optionally, include monitoring the broadcast data for updates to the selected category data, identified by the sequence number of the category frame received. If update monitoring is enabled, the process proceeds next to step 314, which depicts monitoring the broadcast information for an update to the selected category frame. If an updated category frame is detected, the process proceeds to step 316, which illustrates extracting the updated category frame from the broadcast, updating the contents for the category within the database, formatting the extracted category frame for presentation to the user, and updating the display or other presentation device. In this manner, the present invention may be employed for real-time broadcasts (music, videos, etc.) with user selection of the content viewed or listened to from various alternatives.

If the update monitoring option has not been enabled, or if the category frame has not been updated since last extracted and presented to the user, the process proceeds instead to step 318, which illustrates a determination of

AT9-99-407

whether another category has been selected by the user. The available categories specified within the meta frame may be displayed to the user on the handheld device together with the content of the selected category frame, enabling the user to select a different category at any time. The categories displayed may be updated with any changes to the contents of the meta frame. If the user selects a different category, the process returns to step 312, and extracts the category frame for the newly-selected category from the broadcast, adding the new category frame to handheld device's database, and formatting and presenting the new category data to the user.

If the user has not selected a new category, however, the process proceeds instead to step 320, which depicts a determination of whether the application executing within the handheld device which receives broadcast information has been terminated. If not, the process returns to step 314 (if enabled) or 316, to determine if an update to the category frame has been received or if the user has selected a different category. If so, however, the process proceeds to step 322, which illustrates the process becoming idle until the application is restarted and another broadcast is detected. The category frames extracted from the broadcast may be discarded.

The present invention may be employed to enable user selection of information from a content server despite the inability to support client-server type requests from the receiving device. Content may be distributed among a number of users by broadcasting on a common frequency or band, or

AT9-99-407

transmission on other common media. The present invention is well suited to selective filtration and receipt of information in handheld devices having low bandwidth reception capabilities, limited storage, low processor speed, and varying capabilities or devices. Additionally, the present invention lends itself to the offering of pay-per-view services. It is conceivable that the user may purchase a "key" (e.g., encryption key, frequency specifier, etc.) enabling access to the broadcast information. The software could require this key or code prior to receiving the broadcast data, with the key being changed at some predetermined interval.

It is important to note that while the present invention has been described in the context of a fully functional data processing system and/or network, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the mechanism of the present invention is capable of being distributed in the form of a computer usable medium of instructions in a variety of forms, and that the present invention applies equally regardless of the particular type of signal bearing medium used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of computer usable mediums include: nonvolatile, hard-coded type mediums such as read only memories (ROMs) or erasable, electrically programmable read only (EEPROMs), recordable type mediums such as floppy disks, hard disk drives and CD-ROMs, and transmission type mediums such as digital and analog communication links.

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a preferred embodiment, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various

changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

AT9-99-407

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of disseminating information, comprising:
 - forming one or more category frames containing data for user-selectable categories;
 - forming a meta frame identifying the user-selectable categories corresponding to the one or more category frames; and
 - transmitting broadcast information including the meta frame and the one or more category frames in sequence on a common transmission media shared by a plurality of users.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - responsive to receiving the meta frame and the one or more category frames at a device employed by one of the plurality of users, extracting category information from the meta frame and presenting the user-selectable categories to the user.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - responsive to selection of a user-selectable category by the user,
 - receiving a category frame corresponding to the user-selectable category from the one or more category frames,
 - formatting data within the category frame for presentation to the user, and
 - presenting the data from the category frame to the user utilizing the device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming one

AT9-99-407

2 or more category frames containing data for user-selectable
3 categories further comprises:

4 forming each category frame with a starting delimiter
5 identifying a start of the respective category frame, a
6 major code identifying a category to which the respective
7 category frame belongs, encoded data for the respective
8 category frame, and an ending delimiter for the respective
9 category frame.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming a
2 meta frame identifying the user-selectable categories
3 corresponding to the one or more category frames further
4 comprises:

5 forming the meta frame with
6 a starting delimiter identifying a start of the
7 meta frame,
8 a major code identifying the meta frame,
9 for each category corresponding to one of the one
10 or more category frames,
11 a category name for the respective category,
12 a major code identifying the respective
13 category to which the one of the one or more
14 category frames belongs,
15 position information specifying a position of
16 the one of the one or more category frames within
17 the broadcast information, and
18 an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta
19 frame.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting
2 broadcast information including the meta frame and the one
3 or more category frames in sequence on a common transmission

AT9-99-407

media shared by a plurality of users further comprises:
transmitting the meta frame and the one or more
category frames in repetitive succession in one or more
continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting
the meta frame and the one or more category frames in
repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on
one or more frequencies further comprises:

transmitting the meta frame and the one or more
category frames in repetitive succession in a single
continuous cycle on a single frequency.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting
the meta frame and the one or more category frames in
repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on
one or more frequencies further comprises:

transmitting the meta frame in repetitive succession on
a first frequency; and

transmitting subsets of the one or more category frames
in repetitive succession on one or more other frequencies,
wherein a unique subset of the one or more category frames
is transmitted on each of the one or more other frequencies.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting
the meta frame and the one or more category frames in
repetitive succession in one or more continuous cycles on
one or more frequencies further comprises:

transmitting the meta frame and the one or more
category frames in repetitive succession in a single
continuous cycle on each of a plurality of frequencies at
different offsets, wherein a different frame from the meta

[illegible]

AT9-99-407

1 10. A system of disseminating information, comprising:
2 means for forming one or more category frames
3 containing data for user-selectable categories;
4 means for forming a meta frame identifying the user-
5 selectable categories corresponding to the one or more
6 category frames; and
7 means for transmitting broadcast information including
8 the meta frame and the one or more category frames in
9 sequence on a common transmission media shared by a
10 plurality of users.

1 11. The system of claim 10, further comprising:
2 means, responsive to receiving the meta frame and the
3 one or more category frames at a device employed by one of
4 the plurality of users, for extracting category information
5 from the meta frame and presenting the user-selectable
6 categories to the user.

1 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:
2 means, responsive to selection of a user-selectable
3 category by the user, for
4 receiving a category frame corresponding to the
5 user-selectable category from the one or more category
6 frames,
7 formatting data within the category frame for
8 presentation to the user, and
9 presenting the data from the category frame to the
10 user utilizing the device.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for forming
2 one or more category frames containing data for user-
3 selectable categories further comprises:

AT9-99-407

4 means for forming each category frame with a starting
5 delimiter identifying a start of the respective category
6 frame, a major code identifying a category to which the
7 respective category frame belongs, encoded data for the
8 respective category frame, and an ending delimiter for the
9 respective category frame.

1 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for forming a
2 meta frame identifying the user-selectable categories
3 corresponding to the one or more category frames further
4 comprises:

5 means for forming the meta frame with
6 a starting delimiter identifying a start of the
7 meta frame,
8 a major code identifying the meta frame,
9 for each category corresponding to one of the one
10 or more category frames,
11 a category name for the respective category,
12 a major code identifying the respective
13 category to which the one of the one or more
14 category frames belongs,
15 position information specifying a position of
16 the one of the one or more category frames within
17 the broadcast information, and
18 an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta
19 frame.

1 15. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for
2 transmitting broadcast information including the meta frame
3 and the one or more category frames in sequence on a common
4 transmission media shared by a plurality of users further
5 comprises:

AT9-99-407

6 means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or
7 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more
8 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for
2 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category
3 frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous
4 cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or
6 more category frames in repetitive succession in a single
7 continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for
2 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category
3 frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous
4 cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 means for transmitting the meta frame in repetitive
6 succession on a first frequency; and

7 means for transmitting subsets of the one or more
8 category frames in repetitive succession on one or more
9 other frequencies, wherein a unique subset of the one or
10 more category frames is transmitted on each of the one or
11 more other frequencies.

1 18. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for
2 transmitting the meta frame and the one or more category
3 frames in repetitive succession in one or more continuous
4 cycles on one or more frequencies further comprises:

5 means for transmitting the meta frame and the one or
6 more category frames in repetitive succession in a single
7 continuous cycle on each of a plurality of frequencies at
8 different offsets, wherein a different frame from the meta

AT9-99-407

9 frame and the one or more category frames is transmitted at
10 a given time on each frequency within the plurality of
11 frequencies.

AT9-99-407

1 19. A computer program product within a computer usable
2 medium for disseminating information, comprising:
3 instructions for forming one or more category frames
4 containing data for user-selectable categories;
5 instructions for forming a meta frame identifying the
6 user-selectable categories corresponding to the one or more
7 category frames; and
8 instructions for transmitting broadcast information
9 including the meta frame and the one or more category frames
10 in sequence on a common transmission media shared by a
11 plurality of users.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 19, further
2 comprising:
3 instructions, responsive to receiving the meta frame
4 and the one or more category frames at a device employed by
5 one of the plurality of users, for extracting category
6 information from the meta frame and presenting the user-
7 selectable categories to the user.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 20, further
2 comprising:
3 instructions, responsive to selection of a user-
4 selectable category by the user, for
5 receiving a category frame corresponding to the
6 user-selectable category from the one or more category
7 frames,
8 formatting data within the category frame for
9 presentation to the user, and
10 presenting the data from the category frame to the
11 user utilizing the device.

AT9-99-407

1 22. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the
2 instructions for forming one or more category frames
3 containing data for user-selectable categories further
4 comprise:

5 instructions for forming each category frame with a
6 starting delimiter identifying a start of the respective
7 category frame, a major code identifying a category to which
8 the respective category frame belongs, encoded data for the
9 respective category frame, and an ending delimiter for the
10 respective category frame.

1 23. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the
2 instructions for forming a meta frame identifying the user-
3 selectable categories corresponding to the one or more
4 category frames further comprise:

5 instructions for forming the meta frame with
6 a starting delimiter identifying a start of the
7 meta frame,
8 a major code identifying the meta frame,
9 for each category corresponding to one of the one
10 or more category frames,
11 a category name for the respective category,
12 a major code identifying the respective
13 category to which the one of the one or more
14 category frames belongs,
15 position information specifying a position of
16 the one of the one or more category frames within
17 the broadcast information, and
18 an ending delimiter identifying an end of the meta
19 frame.

1 24. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the

AT9-99-407

2 instructions for transmitting broadcast information
3 including the meta frame and the one or more category frames
4 in sequence on a common transmission media shared by a
5 plurality of users further comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the
7 one or more category frames in repetitive succession in one
8 or more continuous cycles on one or more frequencies.

1 25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the
2 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or
3 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more
4 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further
5 comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the
7 one or more category frames in repetitive succession in a
8 single continuous cycle on a single frequency.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the
2 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or
3 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more
4 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further
5 comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame in
7 repetitive succession on a first frequency; and

8 instructions for transmitting subsets of the one or
9 more category frames in repetitive succession on one or more
10 other frequencies, wherein a unique subset of the one or
11 more category frames is transmitted on each of the one or
12 more other frequencies.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the
2 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the one or

AT9-99-407

3 more category frames in repetitive succession in one or more
4 continuous cycles on one or more frequencies further
5 comprise:

6 instructions for transmitting the meta frame and the
7 one or more category frames in repetitive succession in a
8 single continuous cycle on each of a plurality of
9 frequencies at different offsets, wherein a different frame
10 from the meta frame and the one or more category frames is
11 transmitted at a given time on each frequency within the
12 plurality of frequencies.

METHOD AND APPARATUS OF DISSEMINATING BROADCAST

INFORMATION TO A HANDHELD DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Broadcast information is classified in categories to
5 facilitate user selection and filtration of the broadcast
information which is processed for presentation to the user.
The broadcast information is transmitted in the form of a
meta frame and one or more category frames which are
repeated in a continuous cycle. Meta frames and category
10 frames are distinguished and identified by major and minor
codes following a frame starting delimiter. The meta frame
contains a description of each of the available categories,
together with an identification of respective category major
and minor codes, the frequency on which the respective
15 category frame is transmitted if multiple frequencies are
employed, and the relative position of the respective
category frame within transmission cycle. If multiple
frequencies are employed, the meta frame may be repeatedly
broadcast on a base frequency while subsets of the category
20 frames are transmitted on different frequencies, or the meta
and category frames may be repeated in sequence on all
frequencies but with varying offsets. Upon user selection
of a category, the category information within the meta
frame is employed to construct or key a filter for the
25 broadcast information. The selected category frame data is
received and added to a local database, formatted, and
presented to the user.

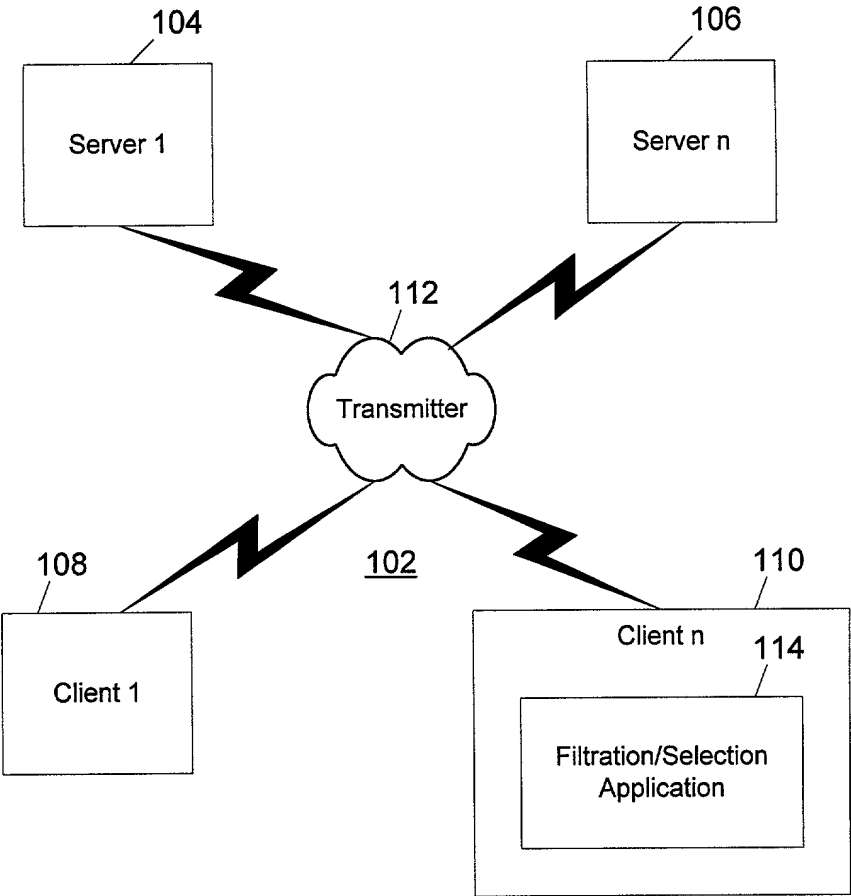


Figure 1

MetaFrame	Category 1	Category 2		Category n	MetaFrame	Category 1
-----------	------------	------------	--	------------	-----------	------------

Figure 2A

f0	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame
f1	Category 1	Category 1	Category 1	Category 1	Category 1	Category 1
f2	Category 2	Category 3	Category 2	Category 3	Category 2	Category 2
⋮						
⋮						
⋮						
fn	Category n	Category n	Category n	Category n	Category n	Category n

Figure 2B

f0	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame	MetaFrame
f1	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	⋮		Category n	Category 2
f2	Category 2	Category 3	⋮		Category n	Category 1	Category 3
⋮	⋮						
fn	Category n	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	⋮		Category 1

Figure 2C

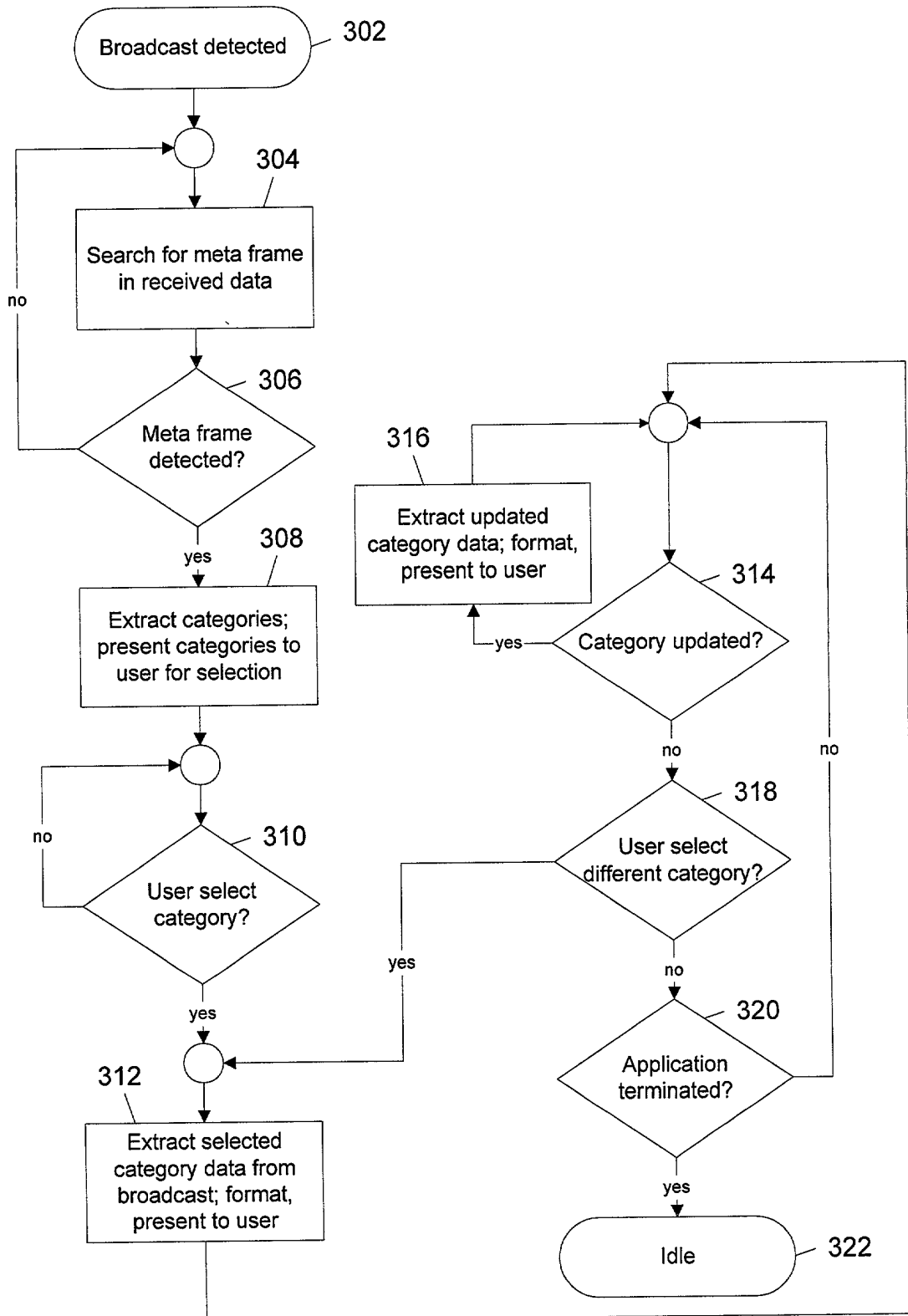


Figure 3

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR
PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS OF DISSEMINATING BROADCAST INFORMATION
TO A HANDHELD DEVICE

the specification of which (check one)

X is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s): _____ Priority Claimed

_____ Yes _____ No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Serial #) _____ (Filing Date) _____ (Status)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

John W. Henderson, Jr., Reg. No. 26,907; Thomas E. Tyson, Reg. No. 28,543; Robert M. Carwell, Reg. No. 28,499; Jeffrey S. LaBaw, Reg. No. 31,633; Douglas H. Lefevre, Reg. No. 26,193; Casimer K. Salys, Reg. No. 28,900; David A. Mims, Jr., Reg. No. 32,708; Mark E. McBurney, Reg. No. 33,114; Volel Emile, Reg. No. 39,969; James H. Barksdale, Jr. Reg. No. 24,091; Anthony V. England, Reg. No. 35,129; Leslie A. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 42,196; Christopher A. Hughes, Reg. No. 26,914; Edward A. Pennington, Reg. No. 32,588; John E. Hoel, Reg. No. 26,279; and Joseph C. Redmond, Jr., Reg. No. 18,753; Marilyn S. Dawkins, Reg. 31,140; Andrew Mitchell Harris, Reg. No. 42,638; Richard N. McCain, Reg. No. 43,785; Andrew J. Dillon, Reg. No. 29,634; Max Cicccarelli, Reg. No. 39,454; Jack V. Musgrove, Reg. No. 31,986; Daniel E. Venglarik, Reg. No. 39,409; Brian F. Russell, Reg. No. 40,796; John G. Graham, Reg. No. 19,563; Matthew W. Baca, Reg. No. 42,277; Justin M. Dillon, Reg. No. 42,486; Antony P. Ng, Reg. No. 43,427; Steven Lin, Reg. No. 35,250; Matthew S. Anderson, Reg. No. 39,093; and Mike Noe, Reg. No. 44,975.

Send correspondence to: Andrew J. Dillon, FELSMAN, BRADLEY, VADEN, GUNTER & DILLON, LLP, Lakewood on the Park, Suite 350, 7600B North Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, Texas 78731, and direct all telephone calls to Andrew J. Dillon, 512/343-6116.

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: Edwin James Hilpert, Jr.

INVENTORS SIGNATURE: Edwin James Hilpert, Jr. DATE: December 16, 1999

RESIDENCE: 2051 Crabapple Cove
Round Rock, Texas 78681

CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 2051 Crabapple Cove
Round Rock, Texas 78681

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR SECOND INVENTOR: Michael Joseph Sullivan

INVENTORS SIGNATURE: Michael Joseph Sullivan DATE: 12/16/99

RESIDENCE: 10008 China Garden Cove
Austin, Texas 78730

CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 10008 China Garden Cove
Austin, Texas 78730

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR THIRD INVENTOR: William J. Tracey

INVENTORS SIGNATURE: William J. Tracey DATE: 16 DECEMBER 1999

RESIDENCE: 400 Deepwood Drive
Round Rock, Texas 78681

CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 400 Deepwood Drive
Round Rock, Texas 78681

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FOURTH INVENTOR: Jonathan Mark Wagner

INVENTORS SIGNATURE: Jonathan M. Wagner DATE: 12/16/99

RESIDENCE: 2926 Cedar Crest Circle
Round Rock, Texas 78664

CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 2926 Cedar Crest Circle
Round Rock, Texas 78664